



Amtrak California
A partnership of Caltrans and Amtrak

Making Tracks

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Lompoc/Surf Station Debuts

PHOTOS LEFT TO RIGHT:

Alice Milligan, President of the Lompoc Valley Chamber of Commerce, gets ready to cut the ribbon with a giant scissors to open the Lompoc/Surf Amtrak Station. Behind her are (left to right) Lompoc Mayor Richard DeWees; Judge Timothy J. Staffel, a former Supervisor; and Brian Rosenwald of Amtrak.

Erich Brown, Santa Barbara County Architect, unveils a station plaque.

Warren Weber, Caltrans Rail Program Manager, serves as Master of Ceremonies.

Lompoc and Vandenberg Air Force Base residents now have a new, convenient gateway to Southern California and the rest of the state. And surf and sand lovers have easy access to one of the Central Coast's most beautiful beaches. The new Lompoc/Surf Amtrak Station, located at the end of Ocean Avenue at Surf Beach, opened for service on March 19. It is served by two daily *San Diegan* trains. The southbound train from San Luis Obispo to Los Angeles and San Diego stops at Lompoc/Surf at 7:46 a.m. The northbound train stops at the station at 6:52 p.m. An Amtrak Motorcoach takes passengers to and from both trains and a downtown Lompoc bus stop at the Lompoc Visitors Center, 111 South I Street.

Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches also make the connection between downtown Lompoc and other *San Diegan* trains in Santa Barbara. Check with Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL for all schedules and fares.

The new Lompoc/Surf Amtrak Station features an 800-foot-long fully accessible passenger platform, three concrete and glass brick passenger shelters with benches, a public telephone, restrooms, a lighted parking lot that accommodates 39 automobiles and a convenient bus-loading zone.

A public celebration was held March 18 to dedicate the new station. The afternoon program included local and state officials, a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments, souvenirs and informational brochures, and drawings for trips on the train and other prizes.



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Gray Davis, Governor

Business, Transportation
& Housing Agency
Maria Contreras-Sweet,
Secretary

Department of Transportation
Tony Harris, Acting Director

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Strawberries Enjoy Center Stage



The 17th Annual California Strawberry Festival will be held in Oxnard the weekend of May 20 and 21, from 10 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. (both days). Complimentary shuttles will provide transportation for *San Diegan* passengers between the Oxnard Amtrak Station and the Festival. Traveling on the *San Diegan* from San Diego, Orange County, Los Angeles or the San Fernando Valley, you can arrive in Oxnard at 10:42 a.m. or 12:45 p.m. From the north (San Luis Obispo, Guadalupe/Santa Maria, Lompoc/Surf and Goleta/Santa Barbara, you arrive at 10:08 a.m.

The annual Strawberry Festival includes musical entertainment (three concert stages will be jammin' non-stop), arts and crafts and delightful strawberry treats—everything from strawberry pizza to shortcake and chocolate dipped strawberries. Children will enjoy Strawberryland, a playland designed especially for kids that includes a petting zoo, puppet shows, face painting a Bounce Slide and a Berry-go-Round. Admission is \$9 adults, \$5 children ages 5-12 and seniors (55+) and no charge for children 4 years and under.

Known as the "Strawberry Capital of California," Oxnard boasts more than 6,600 acres of the delicious fruit, harvesting over 27% of California's berry crop. Discovered in 1542 by Portuguese sailor Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo, Oxnard's Mediterranean-like climate is perfect for farming strawberries, and for enjoying a variety of outdoor activities the city has to offer.

New Connections

here we come!

if you live in Hemet, Perris or Moreno Valley or you are going to one of those communities in Riverside County, you should know there is a convenient connection to Amtrak California's *San Joaquin* trains in Bakersfield. A comfortable Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach leaves each morning from Hemet at 7:25 a.m., Perris at 7:50 a.m. and Moreno Valley at 8:05 a.m. to connect with *San Joaquin* train #715 at Bakersfield. Northbound, the train stops in Wasco, Corcoran, Hanford, Fresno, Madera, Merced, Turlock/Denair, Modesto, Stockton, Antioch, Martinez, Richmond, Emeryville (connecting point for San Francisco) and Oakland. Southbound, passengers take *San Joaquin* #714 and are in Moreno Valley at 8:25 p.m., Perris at 8:40 p.m. and Hemet at 9:00 p.m.

The Amtrak Thruway Motorcoach stops at Coco's Family Restaurant, 3246 West Florida Avenue, Hemet; Best Western Perris Inn, 480 South Redlands Avenue, Perris; and AM/PM Mini Mart, 2624 East Alessandro Blvd. (just east of I-215), Moreno Valley.

And now...La Crescenta! La Crescenta has been added to the schedule for Amtrak's Thruway Motorcoach to *San Joaquin* trains at Bakersfield. Motorcoaches depart La Crescenta four times daily at 7:25 a.m., 10:35 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:20 p.m. to connect with *San Joaquin* trains in Bakersfield. Motorcoach connections from the four daily southbound *San Joaquin* trains arrive in La Crescenta at 1:45 p.m., 3:20 p.m., 6:10 p.m. and 9:15 p.m. The Motorcoach stop in La Crescenta is located at the Park & Ride Lot, Lowell Avenue and I-210 Freeway.

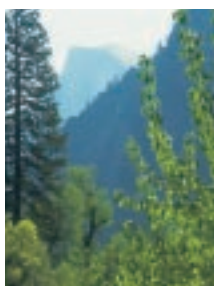
PLEASE NOTE:

Train schedules may change May 21. Motorcoaches will make appropriate schedule changes to connect to the trains. Be sure to check with Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL for up-to-date schedules and to make a reservation on *San Joaquin* trains.

Don't forget Newport Beach! The Motorcoach connection between Newport Beach and *San Diegan* trains has begun! To and from southbound trains, the connection is made at San Juan Capistrano, while Los Angeles' Union Station is the connecting point for trains northbound traveling through the San Fernando Valley to Burbank Airport, Van Nuys, Simi Valley, Ventura County, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo.

Southbound, four daily Motorcoaches depart at 6:25 a.m., 11:05 a.m., 5:55 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. Daily northbound Motorcoaches arrive at 8:30 a.m., 1:10 p.m., 8:15 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. (11:00 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays.) Northbound, Motorcoaches leave Newport Beach at 8:30 a.m. and 1:10 p.m., and the return Motorcoaches from trains at Los Angeles Union Station arrive at 5:55 p.m. and 8:40 p.m. The Newport Beach Motorcoach stop is located at the Transit Center, 1550 Avocado Road.

Yosemite On The Train — The Only Way to Go!



WITH PLANS UNDERWAY for a major reduction in parking spaces, roads and bridges in Yosemite National Park, taking Amtrak California's *San Joaquin* and connecting VIA Adventure Motorcoach is the only sensible

way to see the scenic wonders of "one of the most beautiful places on earth."

Day tours and overnight trips from Northern and Southern California are available. You take the *San Joaquin* train to Merced,

New Rail Cars, Locomotives On the Way

Six new Passenger Coaches and two new locomotives will be built for Caltrans for use in California's intercity rail service operated by Amtrak.

Funding for the \$17.5 million project is authorized in the current California State Budget. The six bi-level intercity passenger coaches, to be delivered early next year, will be placed in Pacific Surfliner service between San Diego, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. The two diesel-electric locomotives, due in mid-2001, will be used in Northern California service. The new locomotives will feature state-of-the-art emission control systems, streamlined bodies and electronic fuel injection systems for maximum efficiency.

The locomotives are rated at 3,000 horsepower and have a maximum speed of 110 mph.

Three of the bi-level passenger cars will be a combined Passenger Coach, Baggage Car and Cab Car with seats for 70 passengers on the upper level and 12 on the lower level, storage for checked baggage and an enclosed engineer's control booth to allow push-pull train operations. Of the remaining three cars, one will be a standard Passenger Car with 72 seats on the upper level and 18 seats on the lower level; one will be a Café Car, with 12 at-table seats on the lower level and 72 passenger seats on the upper level; and the last will be a Pacific Business Class Car with reserved seating for 77 passengers on the two levels.

where you are met by the VIA Adventure motorcoach for the trip through the Gold Country hills to Yosemite Valley.

For full information, call Amtrak at 1-800-USA-RAIL, or visit the website at www.amtrakwest.com.

Amtrak California Introduces New Internet Kiosk

Check out the quick and easy way to obtain travel information from the new Cais Internet Kiosk the next time you're at an Amtrak California station. A simple click on the Amtrak icon gains access to all the free information.

A simple click
on the Amtrak
icon gives
you full
information
on the
passenger trains.

The exciting new benefit for today's travelers is access to the Internet. Now you can send and retrieve e-mail and a fax and access a Web Site directly from the new Kiosk. The cost is only \$2.50 for 10 minutes charged to your credit card.

By May 1, a number of staffed stations will have new Cais Internet Kiosks, allowing travelers to obtain schedule information, routes of the trains, fares and public transportation to and from stations. Los Angeles, San Diego, Oceanside, Fullerton, Fresno, San Francisco, Oakland, Emeryville, Sacramento and San Jose Amtrak Stations all will have the new Cais Kiosks.



A Cais Internet Kiosk at an Amtrak California Station.

Passenger Trains Get Major Upgrade



First California Car with distinctive new carpeting and upholstery.

Two State-owned General Electric Dash-8 locomotives, built and placed in service in 1991, are being completely remanufactured to like-new standards. Locomotive 2051 has already returned from the Amtrak repair facility in Indiana and is back in service on the *San Joaquin* route. The second locomotive (2052) will return to California by the middle of May.

Along with a fresh paint job in the distinctive Amtrak California colors, each locomotive will now be powered by a state-of-the-art fuel injected diesel engine, providing a 1%-2% savings in fuel economy and far less

visible smoke emission from the exhaust stacks. To enhance safety on the rebuilt units, reflective tape is being applied to the sides and front of each locomotive to improve visibility at night and at grade crossings. Crossing lights on the locomotives will now flash alternately when the locomotive engineer activates the crossing bell or blows the air horn.

All 66 of the California Car fleet — placed in service by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) in 1995 — will have handsome new carpeting placed throughout. New, attractive, soil-resistant seat cushions and upholstery will replace existing upholstery in the Passenger Coaches and Dining Cars. In addition, in-service experience has revealed the need for some design modifications that will provide enhanced safety, maintainability and access to the cars.

Education and Law Enforcement To Promote Rail Safety

RAILROADS, LAW ENFORCEMENT agencies and other community groups will conduct a week-long education and law enforcement program in the San Joaquin Valley during the first week in June to send a message of safe behavior around railroad tracks.



A special emphasis will be placed on educating drivers through programs in driver education classes and with school bus drivers and the agricultural community. In

California last year the number of incidents at highway/rail grade crossings involving trains and cars or trucks increased over the previous year.

Printed materials and videos addressing both law enforcement and truck safety concerns will be distributed at police academies, CHP Inspection Stations, and to truck drivers, bus drivers, Farm Bureaus and driver's training schools in the Valley.

A special train will operate through the Valley during the first week of June to bring the rail safety message to each community along the route. Truck drivers will be aboard the train to see the dangers of driving around railroad grade crossing gates and failing to stop at railroad signals. Law enforcement agents will be aboard the train to cite offenders who fail to stop at railroad signals or grade crossings, or who trespass on rail tracks and property.

Students Get Into Spring Training

This Spring Caltrans and Amtrak joined forces and arranged for school groups to take the train to their favorite field trip destinations aboard Amtrak California's *San Joaquin* trains. Letters went out to school principals and school district superintendents inviting participation in the program, and suggesting several trips that would be of interest to grade school age students. More than 2000 students and their teachers/escorts have joined the program and enjoyed a Spring break on the train. Trips generally took two hours of travel time in each direction, thus allowing plenty of time at the students' destination. Among the destinations selected have been trips to Old Sacramento, San Francisco's Pier 39, and the State Capitol Building. One enterprising eighth grade class made a multi-modal tour by taking the train to Richmond station and transferring to BART for a trip across San Francisco Bay. Once in San Francisco, the students rode a trolley and returned via ferry boat to the trip home on Amtrak.

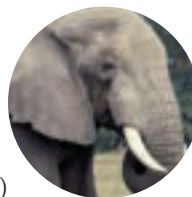
Study of California history is a major part of grade school curriculum. Travel aboard the *San Joaquins* creates a "hands-on" learning situation to dramatically describe the role of the railroads in the growth and development of California. Students also get the chance to learn about how a train operates, and why it is important to use caution and behave safely while around train equipment and facilities.

Amtrak Offers Special Marine World Admission

ARE YOU GOING TO BE among the two million people visiting Marine World Africa USA this year? Of course you are! And, Amtrak can take you there while saving you big bucks on your admission ticket.

When you buy your train ticket, purchase your Marine World admission ticket from Amtrak for the low price of \$20 for adults, as well as for children over 48 inches tall. The rate for children three years and older (up to 48 inches tall) is \$17. A child younger than three years is free and seniors pay the \$20 rate. Regular adult rate (at the gate) is \$34.

The Vallejo Amtrak Motorcoach from the Martinez Station stops at the Main Gate



to Marine World when the park is open, and also stops at the Holiday Inn across the street.

Marine World is now open, but not every day. Summer daily operating hours begin in late May. Call 707/644-4000 for days and hours of operation. Marine World is the only combination wildlife, Oceanarium and theme park, with 31 rides including a 15 story tall steel roller coaster added this year. In addition, there are 35 attractions, 10 shows and two play areas just for kids.

For complete details and pricing from your city, call 1-800-USA-RAIL and ask for the Hospitality Desk. Please mention Code: G/CTY/ZMW.

Take Them Out To The Ballgame On Amtrak

PACIFIC BELL PARK, the new home of the San Francisco Giants is open, but parking there is limited and expensive. But, it's no problem for Northern California fans when they ride Amtrak's *San Joaquin* to the game. For day games only, Amtrak Thruway Motorcoaches will meet select *San Joaquin* trains at the Emeryville Station for direct service over the Bay Bridge to the ballpark. The Amtrak Motorcoach stops at the north end of the Caltrain Station on Townsend and Fourth Streets. From there it's an easy two-block walk to the ballpark entrance. Passengers will find a waiting area, restrooms and snack bar inside the station. Best of all, there is no extra charge for the Motorcoach to Pacific Bell Park, but passengers must make a reservation for the bus when they make their train reservation.

The special Motorcoach to and from the ballpark runs on the following days:

MAY 4 | 6 | 7 | 10 | 25 | 27 | 28 | 29

JUNE 3 | 4 | 10 | 11 | 14 | 17 | 18

JULY 1 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 15 | 16

AUG 5 | 6 | 9 | 19 | 20 | 23

SEPT 2 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 10 | 23 | 24